

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims in the application are requested.

Claims 2-4, 6, 8-11, 14-23, 25-29, 31-33, and 36-44 are pending in the application.

Claims 2-4, 6, 8-11, 31-33, 40, 43 and 44 have been allowed, subject to the correction of minor informalities.

Applicants have amended the claims to place the application in condition for allowance, as follows:

1. The objections to claims 2, 16 and 40 have been cured, per the Examiner's instruction. Accordingly, claims 2-4, 6, 8-11, 16 and 40 are in condition for allowance.
2. Claims 41 and 18 have been combined in New Claim 45, as allowable subject matter. Independent claim 41 and dependent 18 have been canceled.
3. Dependent claims 14-17 and 19-23, formerly dependent on Claim 41, now depend from New Claim 45.
4. Claims 42 and 26 have been combined in New Claim 46, as allowable subject matter. Independent claim 42 and dependent claim 26 have been canceled.
5. Dependent claims 25, 27-29, formerly dependent on claim 42, now depend from New Claim 46.
6. Independent claim 36 has been canceled.
7. Dependent claims 37-39, formerly dependent on claim 36, now depend from New Claim 45.

Summarizing, New Claim 45 and dependent claims 14-17; 19-23; 37-39; New Claim 46 and dependent claims 25, 27-29 are in condition for allowance. Claim 40 and dependent claims 2-11, as amended stand allowed. Claim 43 and dependent claims 31-33 stand allowed. Claim 44 stands allowed. Independent claims 36, 41 and 42 have been canceled. Dependent claims 18 and 26 have been canceled. All patentability issues have been resolved. The application is in condition.

CONCLUSION:

Applicants have resolved all patentability issues related to the application. The claims remaining in the application are allowed or allowable. Entry of the amendment, allowance of the claims and passage to issue of the application are requested, or in the alternative, entry of the amendment for purposes of appeal.

AUTHORIZATION:

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the timely consideration of this amendment under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0510, Order No. YOR9-2000-0301 (1963-7393)

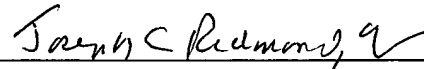
In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 50-0510, Order No. YOR9-2000-0301 (1963-7393).

Respectfully submitted,

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